

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200436 TOSEC 090083
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:BDSHANKS
APPROVED BY PA/M:CWFREEMAN, JR.
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PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----019918 231751Z /45

P 231646Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT LEAD ARTICLE BY GODFREY SPERLING, JR. IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, HEADED 'SALT II CLIMATE SUDD:NLY TURNS WARMER.'
2. "ATMOSPHERICS" FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SALT II AGREEMENT HAVE IMPROVED DECIDEDLY IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, THE MONITOR HAS LEARNED.
3. PARTIES TO THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS TALKS NOW ARE MOVING TOWARD CONSUMMATING A DOCUMENT LIKE THAT 'ORKED OUT IN A CONCEPTUAL WAY BY GERALD FORD AND HENRY KISSINGER AT VLADIVOSTOK IN 1974.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 200436 TOSEC 090083

4. WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS A SOURCE CLOSE TO BOTH THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT AND THE HIGH-LEVEL EFFORT BEING MADE BY THIS ADMINISTRATION TO PEN A SALT II PACT BEFORE SALT I RUNS OUT THIS FALL, SAYS PRESIDENT CARTER NOW IS IN A POSITION "TO GET WHAT WAS WORKED OUT IN A PRELIMINARY WAY AT VLADIVOSTOK--PLUS A LITTLE BIT MORE IN THE WAY OF ARMS LIMITATION."

5. THE PARTIES, APPARENTLY FAR APART AFTER THE SOVIETS GAVE A COLD SHOULDER TO MR. CARTER'S INITIAL EFFORT TO ACHIEVE MAJOR, MUTUAL ARMS REDUCTIONS, NOW HAVE MOVED SUDDENLY MUCH CLOSER.

6. FIRST IT WAS LEONID BREZHNEV RECENTLY SAYING PUBLICLY HE WOULD WELCOME AN ARMS-TALK INITIATIVE FROM THE UNITED STATES. AND NOW SOURCES HIGH UP IN THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE TOLD THE MONITOR THAT "WE ALSO WELCOME AN INITIATIVE, (FROM THE SOVIETS).

7. WHAT THIS IS SAYING IS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS RESPONDING AFFIRMATIVELY TO THE SOVIET CALL FOR A RENEWAL OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.

8. ALSO, IT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S WAY OF SAYING PUBLICLY WHAT IT NOW IS SAYING VIGOROUSLY IN PRIVATE TO THE SOVIETS: THE CLIMATE NOW IS RIGHT FOR ARMS-REDUCTIONS TALKS. LET'S GET GOING.

9. WHAT THIS MEANS, IT SEEMS, IS THAT THE US IS WATERING DOWN ITS ARMS-REDUCTIONS DEMANDS AS IT SEEKS TO COME TOGETHER WITH THE SOVIETS ON A SALT PACT.

10. AT THE SAME TIME, AS INTERPRETED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 200436 TOSEC 090083

SOURCES HERE, THE BREZHNEV TALK OF WELCOMING A US INITIATIVE IS SEEN AS A SIGNAL TO THE UNITED STATES THAT THE SOVIET LEADER HAS LOOKED OVER HIS OWN SITUATION--PARTICULARLY THE SIGNS OF A FADING SOVIET ECONOMY--AND DECIDED THAT IT IS TO THE SOVIET ADVANTAGE TO PUT SOME KIND OF A CAP ON THE ARMS RACE AT THIS POINT.

11. CRITICS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION PRIVY TO THE VLADIVOSTOK "CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH," AS HENRY KISSINGER ONCE DESCRIBED IT, ARE CONVINCED MR. CARTER MIGHT WELL HAVE GOTTEN ABOUT 10 PERCENT MORE IN ARMS LIMITATIONS HAD HE MOVED QUIETLY AND PERSISTENTLY IN THAT DIRECTION AT THE OUTSET OF HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS.

12. NOW THESE SAME CRITICS THINK MR. CARTER CAN STILL GET 5 PERCENT MORE THAN VLADIVOSTOK ENVISIONED IF HE PROCEEDS CAUTIOUSLY AND BARGAINS QUIETLY AND WELL.

13. THESE CRITICS ARE KNOWN TO FEEL THAT SHOULD MR. CARTER ONCE MORE BREAK OUT IN THE OPEN WITH HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS, HE COULD DESTROY PROSPECTS FOR AN EARLY AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE200436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BDSHANKS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770304-0505
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770832/aaaabatv.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 11c5de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1513457
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, PARM, US, UR, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (SPERLING, GODFREY)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11c5de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009